Remarks

Claims 1-11 remain in the application.

The Abstract of the Disclosure has been amended to conform to MPEP 608.01(b).

Claims 1, 5, 7, and 11 have been amended to correct grammatical errors, to eliminate multiple dependencies and to eliminate the phrase "the step of." As such, claims 1, 5, 7, and 11 have been clarified by amendment for purposes of form. It is respectfully submitted that the amendments to claims 1, 5, 7, and 11 are neither narrowing nor made for substantial reasons related to patentablity as defined by the Court of Appeals for the Federal Circuit (CAFC) in Festo Corporation v. Shoketsu Kinzoku Kogyo Kabushiki Co., Ltd., 95-1066 (Fed. Cir. 2000). Therefore, the amendments to claims 1, 5, 7, and 11 do not create prosecution history estoppel and, as such, the doctrine of equivalents is available for all of the elements of claims 1, 5, 7, and 11.

Consideration and allowance of the claims is respectfully requested.

Attached hereto is a marked up version of the changes made to the specification and claims by the current amendment. The attached page is captioned "Version With Markings to Show Changes Made."

Respectfully submitted,

9-20-01
Date

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VERSION WITH MARKINGS TO SHOW CHANGES MADE

In The Abstract of the Disclosure

Please amend the Abstract of the Disclosure as follows:

[In an] An apparatus and a method for connecting high-frequency circuit boards, and for providing an electrical connection between respective electrodes of two high-frequency circuit boards[, there is provided with] includes an electrode connecting member including a bar-shaped member having a predetermined sectional shape, and [including] having connecting electrodes formed on a part of an outer periphery of the bar-shaped member. The connecting electrodes are located so as to provide an inter-connection between the respective electrodes of the two high-frequency circuit boards through the connecting electrodes and to be sandwiched between the respective electrodes thereof. The connecting electrodes are preferably [constituted by] composed of a plurality of electrode lines formed so as to be spaced at a predetermined interval on the outer periphery of the bar-shaped member.

In The Claims

1. (Amended) An apparatus for [connecting high-frequency circuit boards, for] providing electrical connections between respective electrodes of two high-frequency circuit boards, comprising:

an electrode connecting member including a bar-shaped member having a predetermined sectional shape, and including connecting electrode means formed on a part of an outer periphery of said bar-shaped member,

wherein said connecting electrode means is located so as to provide inter-connection between the respective electrodes of said two high-frequency circuit boards through said connecting electrode means and to be sandwiched between the respective electrodes thereof.

5. (Amended) The apparatus as claimed in [any one of claims] claim 1 [to 4], further comprising:

a positioning member for positioning said electrode connecting member between the two high-frequency circuit boards so that said connecting electrode means provides inter-connection between the respective electrodes of the two high-frequency circuit boards so as to be sandwiched between the respective electrodes thereof.

7. (Amended) A method for [connecting high-frequency circuit boards, for] providing electrical connections between respective electrodes of two high-frequency circuit boards, said method including [the step of]:

locating connecting electrode means so as to provide inter-connection between the respective electrodes of said two high-frequency circuit boards through said connecting electrode means and to be sandwiched between the respective electrodes thereof, by means of an electrode connecting member including a bar-shaped member having a predetermined sectional shape, and including said connecting electrode means formed on a part of an outer periphery of said bar-shaped member.

11. (Amended) The method as claimed in [any one of claims] claim 7 [to 10], further including [the step of]:

positioning said electrode connecting member between the two high-frequency circuit boards, by means of a positioning member.